

# REPORT TO COUNCIL



**Date:** February 21, 2012  
**File:** 1340-10  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Manager, Parks & Public Places  
**Subject:** Rowcliffe Community Park Design(SR212452)

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives for information, the report from the Manager of Parks & Public Places DATED February 21, 2012, regarding a status update on the Rowcliffe Community Park Design.

## **Purpose:**

To provide an update to Council on the design for Rowcliffe Park and to report back to Council regarding Service Request #212452:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION FROM THE NOVEMBER 14, 2011 P.M. REGULAR MEETING:  
THAT staff report back to Council with the alternatives/options for relocating the off-leash dog park currently located on the Central Green site to another downtown location.

## **Background:**

Rowcliffe Community Park is intended to provide downtown Kelowna residents with an accessible urban green space, with the potential to accommodate a variety of community park uses and age groups. The park will provide an immediate amenity to the surrounding community which contains the highest density of residential development in the City and is presently underserved by park land. It will also function as a focal point of the Central Green development and could help attract high quality development projects and residential buyers. The park features a large central green space area envisioned for informal games of soccer, ultimate frisbee, volleyball, football and picnicking. The park will also have community gardens, a children's playground, a small stage for performance events and a walking/biking circuit.

## Off-leash Dog Area

The existing Central Green site has an off-leash dog area that was established by Council in 2007. The off-leash dog area has become popular with residents due to its central location. The off-leash dog area was designated 'temporary' by Council in order to facilitate the longer term plans for Central Green Development and the ultimate build-out of Rowcliffe Community Park.

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Staff have considered various options regarding the future status of the off-leash dog area including relocating it to another downtown location. However, selecting another site has proven to be challenging as introducing an off-leash dog area into an existing park can be contentious as it may impact existing uses that the public enjoys today.

Staff have been following a number of precedents in other cities in North America, whereby off-leash dog areas have been successfully incorporated into major mixed-use urban neighbourhoods and parks (e.g. Olympic Village in False Creek, Vancouver). These urban off-leash areas tend to be smaller in size due to the availability of land in downtown areas, but benefit residents by providing a local amenity within walking distance.

In consideration of incorporating an off-leash dog area into the design of Rowcliffe Community Park, several principals were developed to guide decision-making which include the following:

- i. **Aesthetics:** the character of the off-leash dog area should visually complement the overall park experience;
- ii. **Park Use:** An off-leash dog area is not the principal focus of the park, and should not detract from the overall mixed-use goals. It should not conflict with other uses and facilities or inhibit people from using other parts of the park;
- iii. **Supporting amenities:** An urban off-leash dog area should have supporting infrastructure to ensure its success e.g. park furniture, shade structures, drinking fountains, dog play equipment, etc.

The park design has been amended based on this analysis to include an off-leash dog area (see Attachment 1). The project is currently in a detail design phase and construction-ready drawings will be completed later this year.

#### **Internal Circulation:**

Manager, Parks and Public Spaces Projects  
Manager, Strategic Land Development

#### **Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

The cost estimate for construction of Rowcliffe Park is approximately \$3.9M. This includes approximately \$200,000 of off-site utility/roadway upgrades to the adjacent streets.

Applications will be made when appropriate grants are announced, subject to Council approval. Otherwise, the timing for park construction will be determined as part of the City's Long Term Capital Plan update in consideration of all other civic projects.

Phasing the construction of the park over multiple years is another potential strategy to match funding availability in the annual Capital Plan and follow the anticipated timelines of build-out for the Central Green development.

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

- Legal/Statutory Authority
- Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements
- Existing Policy
- Personnel Implications
- External Agency/Public Comments
- Communications Comments
- Alternate Recommendation

Submitted by:



T. Barton Manager, Parks & Public Places

Approved for inclusion:

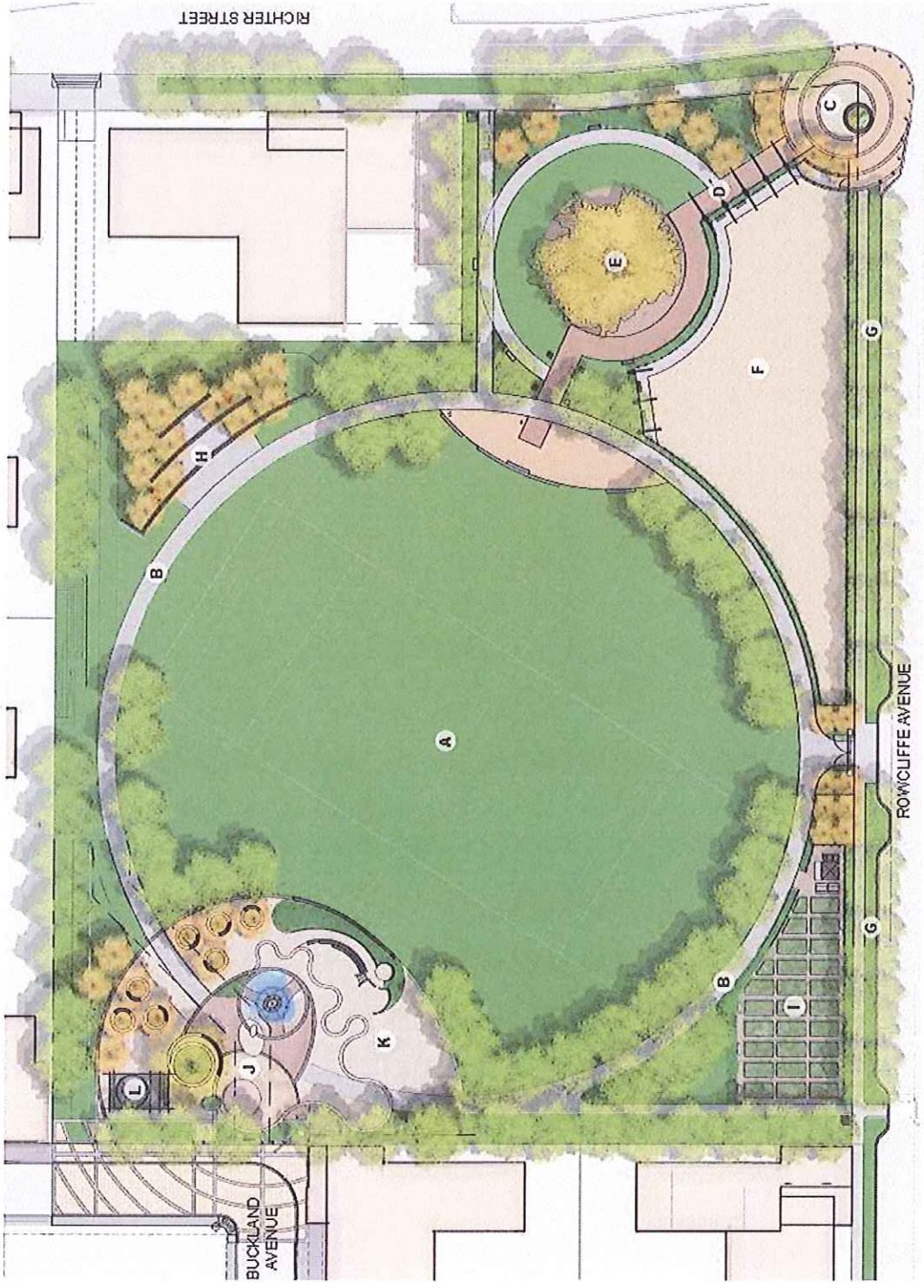


R. Cleveland, Director of Infrastructure Planning

Attach: 1 Rowcliffe Park Masterplan

cc: Director, Real Estate and Building Services  
Director, Design & Construction Services  
Director, Civic Operations

ATTACHMENT 1: Rowcliffe Park Masterplan



LEGEND

- A COMMON GREEN
- B PERIMETER PATHWAY
- C HERITAGE PLAZA
- D ARBOUR WALK
- E HERITAGE OAK TREE
- F DOG PARK
- G ROWCLIFFE STREETSCAPE
- H TERRACED STAGE/ SEATING
- I COMMUNITY GARDENS
- J BUCKLAND PLAZA
- K PLAYGROUND
- L WASHROOM BUILDING



MMM GROUP SCALE 1:300



January, 2012

ROWCLIFFE PARK  
masterplan